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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 50th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. PIRIZ-BALLON (Uruguay)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.35 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 12: REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (continued) (A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1, L.23, L.29/Rev.1, L.40/Rev.1, L.50, L.78 and L.79)

Draft resolution on assistance to the Palestinian people (A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1)

1. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, said that, despite the efforts made during the informal consultations, it had not been possible to produce a compromise text. She pointed out that in the English text of paragraph 4, the word "the" before the word "applicability" should be deleted and that a similar change would have to be made in the Spanish text.

2. Mr. ELYASHIV (Israel) said that draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1 and L.29/Rev.1 contained misleading assertions and distortions of facts and were certainly not conducive to the peace process in the Middle East.

3. As his delegation had already explained, Israel not only welcomed any assistance that might be extended to the Palestinian people for constructive purposes through proper and legitimate channels, but also fully cooperated with the United Nations Development Programme and other international organizations in implementing the programmes. However, it firmly opposed any form of assistance to or cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

4. His delegation strongly believed that it was high time to put aside politically motivated debates and resolutions that were counter-productive to the peace process. The solution to the problems lay in a lasting political settlement. Israel was currently engaged in bilateral and multilateral negotiations with its neighbours; progress was being achieved, thereby renewing confidence in the future of the peace process. Draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1 and L.29/Rev.1 were highly politicized and addressed issues that were being negotiated directly among the parties in the peace talks and his delegation would vote against them.

5. Mr. MARKS (United States of America) said that draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1 and L.29/Rev.1 had a long and contentious history. His delegation had already explained why it found them unbalanced and unhelpful to the real needs and interests of the people of the region and the peace process. Three questions were involved: assistance to the Palestinian people; the peace process and the need that it obtain support from all peace-loving nations; and the question of voting on misguided and unbalanced resolutions. His delegation called upon other delegations to consider those three elements and support a position which showed that the United Nations was interested in furthering the peace process, and not merely in rhetoric.

6. His Government gave continuing, unstinting, financial and other support to the Palestinian people. It had worked persistently to develop a peace

(Mr. Marks, United States)

process that would bring true peace to the people of the region, and that process was beginning to show significant progress. His delegation would therefore vote against both draft resolutions.

7. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of).

8. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1 was adopted by 107 votes to 2, with 2 abstentions.

9. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) and Mr. CHABALA (Zambia) said that they had intended to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1.

10. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the member States of the European Community had supported draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.5/Rev.1; they understood the sixth preambular paragraph to refer to the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories.

11. The European Community and its member States continued to give substantial humanitarian and economic assistance to the Palestinian people. Additional emergency assistance of 60 million ECU had been given following the Gulf crisis, and the direct Community aid programme to the occupied territories had increased by 20 per cent in 1992. With regard to paragraph 3,

(Mr. Martin, United Kingdom)

their assistance would continue to be channelled through the appropriate bodies, in cooperation with the competent institutions. That assistance included the financing of projects, such as food aid, as well as projects for the benefit of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and elsewhere, mainly through non-governmental organizations. The European Community gave aid to refugees in the form of food and assistance to educational and health programmes for the refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA); in 1992, its aid had amounted to some 45 million ECU, more than 20 per cent of UNRWA's budget.

12. With regard to paragraph 6, the European Community had adopted autonomous tariff arrangements which included duty-free access for industrial products and preferential treatment for certain agricultural products which would have duty-free access starting on 1 January 1993. The European Community had accepted the chambers of commerce in the West Bank of the Jordan and the Gaza Strip as authorities qualified to issue certificates of origin and to ensure the necessary administrative cooperation. It had repeatedly stressed to the Israeli authorities the importance it attached to the effective implementation of its trade measures without any administrative or other obstacles to Palestinian exports.

13. The European Community interpreted paragraph 9 as concerning the establishment in the occupied territories of a network of local banks. With regard to paragraph 10, it hoped that in any consideration of convening a seminar, full account would be taken of the peace process, and in particular that any such seminar would not cut across the work of the multilateral working group on regional economic development.

14. The European Community and its member States would continue to grant aid and development cooperation, both bilaterally and through the Community, as well as through the competent bodies of the United Nations system, in order to respond to the needs of the Palestinian people.

15. Ms. FREUDENSCHUSS-REICHL (Austria) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the resolution because it dealt with an important issue. With regard to paragraph 6, she noted that at the current stage Austrian national legislation did not allow for the acceptance of Palestinian certificates of origin. As to preferential measures, the occupied Palestinian territories had been included in the list annexed to the Austrian law relating to preferential customs treatment.

16. Mr. CORNWALL (Australia) said that his delegation supported efforts to assist the economic development of the Palestinian people and had therefore voted in favour of the resolution. Its acceptance of the reference to Palestinian certificates of origin in paragraph 6 and elsewhere did not imply recognition by Australia of a Palestinian State. Australia understood the language used in the resolution concerning the occupied territories to refer only to territories occupied by Israel since 1967; that position applied to any such references in resolutions, considered under other items.

17. Ms. NICOLAISEN (Norway) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the resolution on the understanding that paragraph 3 did not impair or restrict Norway's ability to provide assistance to the Palestinian people through channels of its own choice, including non-governmental organizations. Norway remained a major contributor to international assistance to the Palestinian people.

Draft resolution on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people (A/C.2/47/L.29/Rev.1)

18. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, said that the informal consultations on the draft resolution had failed to produce consensus.

19. Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that his delegation's position with regard to the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories was well known. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution because, in its view, the issues it raised should be considered within the framework of the negotiating process in the context of a Middle East peace settlement.

20. A recorded was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.29/Rev.1.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Abstaining: Belarus, Croatia, Marshall Islands, Russian Federation, Uruguay.

21. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.29/Rev.1 was adopted by 101 votes to 3, with 5 abstentions.

22. Mr. AL-SABAH (Kuwait) and Mr. CHABALA (Zambia) said that they had intended to vote in favour of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.29/Rev.1.

23. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that the position of the European Community and its member States was clear; they believed that settlements in the occupied territories were illegal under international law and were an obstacle to peace. They welcomed the announcement by the new Israeli Government of a partial freeze on the building of new settlements as a positive first step towards a complete freeze, and hoped that it would give new impetus to the peace process, which had already made some progress. It was regrettable that that latter point had not been reflected in the resolution.

24. Ms. IRISH (Canada) said that her delegation had voted in favour of the resolution because it believed that settlements in the occupied territories were an obstacle to peace and that a complete freeze in the construction of settlements would facilitate the peace process. It was unfortunate that the resolution did not acknowledge the restrictions recently placed by the Israeli Government on new settlements.

25. Mr. SHREIM (Observer for Palestine) thanked all delegations which had voted for the two draft resolutions. Their adoption sent a clear message to all parties concerned and the near total support given to them reaffirmed yet again the importance that the international community accorded to that issue.

Draft resolutions on privatization (A/C.2/47/L.23 and L.78)

26. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.78, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.23, and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

27. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.78 was adopted.

28. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.23 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution on the impact of the recent evolution of the economies in transition on the growth of the world economy (A/C.2/47/L.40/Rev.1)

29. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, said that informal consultations on the draft resolution had led to agreement, and recommended that the Committee should adopt the draft resolution.

30. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.40/Rev.1 was adopted.

Draft resolutions on the second industrial development decade for Africa, 1991-2000 (A/C.2/47/L.50 and L.79)

31. Ms. KELLEY (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that a statement of programme budget implications had been submitted to the General Assembly in 1991, in response to draft decision A/C.2/46/L.64 on the second Industrial Development Decade for Africa, and that the Assembly had approved an allocation of $135,400 for additional activities related to the Decade to be carried out during the 1992-1993 biennium. The secretariat of the Economic Commission for Africa had started, in 1992, to undertake activities for the Decade and had incurred expenditure of $50,000, leaving a balance of $85,400. Should draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.79 be adopted, the planned activities for 1993 in connection with the Decade would be financed from that balance. The situation would continue to be monitored and additional requirements which might arise in 1993 would be met through redeployment of resources under budget section 23: Economic Commission for Africa. Resource requirements for the Decade during the period 1994-1995 would be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

32. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.79, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.50, and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

33. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.79 was adopted.

34. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.50 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 78: DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION (continued) (A/C.2/47/L.10, L.30, L.35/Rev.1, L.45, L.82 and L.86)

Draft resolutions on the net transfer of resources between developing countries and developed countries (A/C.2/47/L.10 and L.86)

35. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.86, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.10, and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote. She drew attention to the following amendments: the word "the" in line 3 of the seventh preambular paragraph should be deleted, as should the word "recommendations" at the end of paragraph 1. The word "the" in the second, third and ninth lines of paragraph 1 (c) should also be deleted, and the second "that" in the third line of that same paragraph should be replaced by "which".

36. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.86, as orally amended, was adopted.

37. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.10 was withdrawn.

(a) TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft resolutions on the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (A/C.2/47/L.30 and L.82)

38. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement on programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/47/L.45, adding that it applied to both draft resolutions.

39. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.82, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.30, and recommended that the Committee should adopt it without a vote.

40. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.82 was adopted.

41. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.30 was withdrawn.

Draft resolution on the integration of economies in transition into the world economy (A/C.2/47/L.35/Rev.1)

42. Miss DIOP (Senegal), Vice-Chairman, recommended the adoption of the revised draft resolution without a vote.

43. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.35/Rev.1 was adopted.

44. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community, welcomed the adoption of the resolution, which was constructive, balanced and forward-looking. It was of great importance that the international community should give its support to the economic reforms and restructuring process that were under way in the economies in transition. He particularly welcomed the fact that the resolution had recognized the positive impact of those changes which would bring benefits to all countries, including the developing countries.

45. Mr. LUEDIG (Estonia) thanked all who had participated in the negotiations for their flexibility and willingness to discuss the concerns of countries with economies in transition, and expressed the hope that the text would lead to better understanding and closer cooperation between countries whose economies were changing from centrally planned to free market economies and all other countries.

AGENDA ITEM 80: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL CLIMATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS OF MANKIND (continued)

Draft resolutions on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/C.2/47/L.38/Rev.1, L.58 and L.83)

46. The CHAIRMAN said he would take it that the Committee wished to accede to the request of the Chairman of the Group of 77, that consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58 be deferred until the next meeting.

47. It was so decided.

48. Mr. OULD CHEIKH EL GHAOUTH (Mauritania) asked whether the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/47/L.83 took into consideration paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58, and the need for adequate support for the evolving work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Framework Convention on Climate Change. He also requested additional information on the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in particular its programme of work and the dates and venues of its meetings. He questioned whether the estimates for the non-staff requirements of the interim secretariat for 1993 were adequate, especially in the light of what had occurred in 1992. Finally, he wished to know when the Secretary-General would make his proposal to strengthen the interim secretariat of the Convention, as requested in paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.58.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that the secretariat would take due note of the questions of the representative of Mauritania.

AGENDA ITEM 85: INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND THE DIVERSIFICATION AND MODERNIZATION OF PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (continued)

Draft resolutions on industrial development cooperation (A/C.2/47/L.14 and L.74)

50. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.74, which he was submitting on the basis of the informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.14, and recommended it for adoption without a vote.

51. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.74 was adopted.

52. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.14 was withdrawn.

AGENDA ITEM 82: EXTERNAL DEBT CRISIS AND DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Draft decision on the establishment of an advisory commission on debt and development (A/C.2/47/L.4)

53. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, informed the Committee that it had been agreed during informal consultations that no action should be taken on the draft decision contained in document A/C.2/47/L.4.

54. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee decided not to take action on the draft decision.

55. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 86: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE FINANCING OF DEVELOPMENT (continued) (A/C.2/47/L.3 and L.27)

Draft resolution on an international conference on money and finance for development (A/C.2/47/L.3)

56. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, informed the Committee that it had been agreed during informal consultations that consideration of the draft resolution contained in document A/C.2/47/L.3 should be deferred until the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

57. The CHAIRMAN said that he would take it that the Committee wished to defer consideration of the draft resolution to the fiftieth session of the General Assembly.

58. It was so decided.

Draft decision on the financing of development (A/C.2/47/L.27)

59. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, said that consensus had been reached in informal consultations on the draft resolution, and recommended that it should be adopted without a vote.

60. Mr. HJELMAKER (Sweden) said that, in the third line of paragraph (a), ", regional development banks" should be inserted after "the International Monetary Fund".

61. Draft decision A/C.2/47/L.27, as orally amended, was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 87: SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE (continued)

(a) OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF COORDINATOR (continued) (A/47/288-E/1992/94)

62. The CHAIRMAN suggested that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (A/47/288-E/1992/94).

63. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 90: STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO STUDY, MITIGATE AND MINIMIZE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER (continued) (A/C.2/47/L.55, L.67 and L.72)

Draft resolutions on the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination of efforts to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster (A/C.2/47/L.55, L.67 and L.72)

64. The CHAIRMAN drew attention to the statement on the programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/47/L.72, and pointed out that the figure "$34,700" in the first line of paragraph 14 should be replaced by "$42,100".

65. Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.55, and recommended it for adoption without a vote.

66. Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States, said that draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67 reflected the outcome of intensive discussions in recent months between the European Community and its member States and the countries that had been most affected by the Chernobyl disaster. The Twelve strongly endorsed the resolution and looked forward to the Secretary-General's review of the various activities of the United Nations system related to Chernobyl, and related Secretariat arrangements with a view to making recommendations that took account of the activities of regional organizations, in particular the activities of the member States of the European Community and other countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the principle of comparative advantage. The review should provide the basis for agreement on a more focused and realistic approach by the United Nations to the mitigation of the problems arising from the Chernobyl catastrophe.

67. At the same time, the European Community was not fully satisfied with the statement of programme budget implications, contained in document A/C.2/47/L.72, which was clearly predicated on the assumption that activities should continue as before and, in some cases, be intensified. While the European Community had agreed that the Secretary-General should continue

(Mr. Martin, United Kingdom)

activities related to the study, mitigation and minimization of the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, those activities should not be intensified until the General Assembly reached agreement, at its forty-eighth session, on the future of the United Nations Chernobyl programme. Moreover, instead of providing for a five-day visit to Geneva by the United Nations Coordinator of international cooperation for Chernobyl to attend the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, it might be more cost-effective to have the oral report on the outcome of the study presented by a member of the Secretariat who would be attending the session anyway.

68. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.67 was adopted.

69. Draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.55 was withdrawn.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.